



School of
Information Sciences

**Library and Information
Science Program**

Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS)

FastTrack MLIS

Certificate of Advanced Study

Doctor of Philosophy



Daniel Hickey, MLIS program

Why Library and Information Science?

Information can be accessed from an overwhelming number of sources, including books, journals, newspapers, the Internet, television, cell phones, and personal digital assistants. The ability to manage this growing array of information tools has led to new opportunities for people who want to work in a field that bridges the management of both emerging

and traditional information sources. In addition to library or archive facilities, our graduates work in hospitals, museums and other cultural organizations, banks, multinational corporations, manufacturing, government, and social service agencies. Even libraries are incredibly diverse; you can work in an academic library, a public library, a middle school library, or a law library, to name a few.

Gain the essential knowledge and skills for challenging positions, including:

- Public librarian
- Reference librarian
- Digital librarian
- School media specialist (K–6 and 6–12)
- Information policy expert
- Archivist
- Preservation administrator
- Academic librarian
- Medical informatics specialist
- System analyst and designer
- Children’s librarian
- Metadata librarian
- Technical services specialist
- Electronic resources librarian

Our alumni are working at some of the most prestigious organizations, including:

- U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Library of Congress
- U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
- Queens Borough Public Library
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
- University of Pennsylvania Libraries
- Rhode Island Historical Society
- Seattle Public Library
- University of Pittsburgh Library System

Today’s library is an important community resource and gathering place for teenagers, preschoolers, working adults, senior citizens, scholars, and casual readers. Because effective information drives so much of our world, the opportunities for people who can serve as the link between users and sources of information are seemingly limitless.

58% of librarians in the United States are projected to reach retirement age between 2005–2019.

Library and Information Science Program

at the University of Pittsburgh



Siobhan Fagan, MLIS program

For more than 100 years, the University of Pittsburgh has been educating the professionals who will lead us through the information age: librarians, information and knowledge managers, archivists and preservation administrators, and digital content managers. As the nature and form of information evolves and becomes more complex with each passing year, the education of its keepers becomes increasingly vital.

The Library and Information Science Program at Pitt encompasses an array of graduate degree programs and specializations designed to prepare students for careers in this critical profession. Quite simply, we offer one of the most recognized programs in the nation. Our Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree is accredited by the American Library Association (ALA). Since an ALA accreditation is required by a majority of employers for professional positions, graduating from an ALA-accredited program enhances your career mobility and flexibility. Our program also is ranked among the top 10 programs of its kind by *U.S. News & World Report*, and several of our specializations are perennial top-10 picks.

From the faculty who drive our reputation as a top-tier research university to our course work, which is highly relevant to a field that is always changing, the Library and Information Science Program at Pitt offers the right environment to prepare you for a successful and challenging career in the library and information science field.

On the cover:

Christina Dominique, MLIS program

Degree Programs

Each of our degree programs promotes the development of students ranging from newcomers to seasoned professionals looking to expand their career opportunities. For further information on each program, including links to core requirements, course work, and additional specializations, please visit our Web site at www.ischool.pitt.edu/lis.

Master of Library and Information Science

(MLIS): This 36-credit program can be completed in three consecutive terms of full-time study or up to four years (12 terms) of part-time study. The MLIS program enjoys a sterling reputation for a reason: Its graduates are effective advocates for the responsible and constructive use of a wide array of information sources and contribute to the body of basic and applied knowledge and research in the field.

FastTrack MLIS: Through this online program, students can earn the 36-credit MLIS degree in two years of part-time study. Its user-friendly distance learning technology presents the same courses offered on campus. The program is designed around the concept of cohorts, which are communities of students who travel through the program together. Technology allows students to discuss course work, undertake projects, and experience classes with a community of like-minded learners.

Certificate of Advanced Study in Library and Information Science

(CAS/LIS): This program is designed with the professional in mind, and it offers students the opportunity to expand their skills and knowledge with an individualized program of study. The CAS/LIS program allows students to pursue professional development in their areas of special interest without having to obtain a PhD.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): This program prepares students for advanced work in research, teaching, and administration. In keeping with the University of Pittsburgh's reputation as a top-tier research institution, students are trained to conduct original research and produce significant findings. Our faculty members are producing research in such diverse fields as information visualization, cross-lingual information retrieval, and information ethics. Our programs in archives, preservation, and records management; digital libraries; services for children and youth; school libraries; and medical informatics all have a strong tradition of producing leaders in the field.



Mary K. Biagini is an associate professor and the lead faculty member for the School Library Certification Program. **Joe Prince** is an alumni of that program and one of Biagini's advisees.

Admissions Requirements

Prospective students should have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a grade point average of 3.0 or better. An online application and more detailed admission requirements are available at www.ischool.pitt.edu/lis.

Application deadlines are January 15 for the fall and summer terms; September 15 for the spring term.

Financial Aid

A variety of financial aid options, including scholarships, loans, fellowships, and graduate student assistant or research positions, are available to students in the Library and Information Science Program.

An innovative source of financial aid for MLIS students is the Partners Program, which offers students employment in a variety of library settings—notably at law firms, at hospitals, and within the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh system—as well as stipends and partial tuition breaks. For further details, visit the program's Web site at www.ischool.pitt.edu/lis/partners.



(from left) **Janet Ceja**, PhD student; **Joel Blanco**, PhD student; **Richard J. Cox**, professor

The *i*School at Pitt

The University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences is a member of the *i*Schools Caucus, a consortium of 19 institutions of higher education that offer degrees in the information sciences and are interested in the relationship among information, technology, and people. Visit www.ischools.org for more information.



Contact Us

We invite you to contact us for more information about what the Library and Information Science Program can offer you. If you would like to schedule a visit, please contact our student recruitment coordinator at lising@sis.pitt.edu, 412-624-3988, or 1-800-672-9435.



University of Pittsburgh

*School of Information Sciences
Library and Information Science Program
Information Science Building
135 North Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260*